the Peshawar-based Islamic Unity of the Afghan Mujahideen (IUAM). Government have normal diplomatic relations with the legally constituted existing Government in Afghanistan, and no relations with any other so-called "Interim Government".

Foreign investment Policy for Hotel Projects

2288. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign investment policy for hotel projects is suffering due to non-availability of land;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) what is the number of applications lying pending from international hotel chains and Non-Resident Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are no applications pending from International hotel chains and Non-Resident Indians.

New Health Schemes for Retired Railway Employees

2289. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced some new health schemes for the retired railway employees in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government also propose to give some incentives to the retiring railway employees to ensure better living conditions like housing after their retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. A new Health Scheme known as Retired Employees Liberalised Health Scheme has been introduced w.e.f. 28.9.88.

(b) The optees of this scheme are provided free treatment for self, spouse and widowed mother, and concessional treatment for dependent children and dependent parents in railway hospitals and railway health units against a one-time payment equal to one month's basic pay drawn at the time of retirement. Provision also exists in the scheme for reimbursement of a portion of expenditure incurred for treatment in Government hospitals| medical colleges in cases referred by the nominated Medical Officers.

(c) Railway Ministry normally adopts the proposals of the concerned nodal Ministries in Government of India. As regards housing, to help the railway employees in the construction of their houses, the Railway Ministry is examining the feasibility of setting up an independent apex body, to assist the railway employees in acquisition of land, its development, and other activities related to construction, on a self-financing basis. This should help in the contruction of a house for the family after the employee's retirement.

Complimentary|free passes for train journey

2290. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what is the number of complimentary|free passes in existence for train journey and what is the total value of these passes, yearwise, for the last one decade, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Presumably the reference relates to Complimentary Card Passes granted to non-Railwaymen|

Organisations. As on 01.03.1989, a total of 49 Card Passes are current. Since Complimentary Card Passes are granted free, value of these Card Passes has not been computed. Nor is it feasible to compute the same realistically. Hence, it is not possible to give the total value of these passes, year-wise and Zone-wise for the last one decade.

Co-production of a TV series by University Grants Commission

2291. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether there is any tie-up between University Grants Commission and a US based agency to co-produce a television series State of the World; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission has entered into an agreement with WGBH Educational Foundation, Boston (USA) to co-produce a ten part T.V. series entitled "State of the World". The series will aim to explore the human dimensions of international environmental issues ranging from deforestation to population pressures, from soil erosion to disposal of hazardous wastes. As per the terms of the agreement, the Commission will contribute equivalent of US $ 300,000 consisting of equivalent of US $ 200,000 in services and US $ 100,000 in foreign exchange to be paid in four equal instalments of US $ 25000 each at different stages of completion of the project. The Commission's contribution is estimated to be less than 10 per cent of the total cost of production. The E.M.R.C. (Educational Media Research Centre), Guiarat University is the focal agency to implement the project. The work on the T.V. series has already commenced.

Proposal for inclusion of Orissa projects under National Highways

2292. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has sent any proposal to include any project under the national highways during the current Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) During the 7th Plan (1985-90), the Government of Orissa forwarded a proposal for the declaration of the road from Gopalpur (Orissa) to Raipur (in Madhya Pradesh) via Khariar as a National Highway. However, owing to resource constraints and other priority considerations, it has not been possible to include this road in the National Highways network.

Development of Konark Temple in Orissa as a Touris Spot

2293. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konark Sun Temple in Orissa has been declared as a historical and mythological place for tourist attraction;

(b) whether proper facilities have been provided to the tourists at that place;

(c) whether Central Government have built up any yatri niwas|hotel at Konark; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to popularise this tourist spot to attract domestic and foreign tourists?